



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

October 1, 2009

Mr. Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Szabo:

On behalf of the Commonwealth, I am pleased to submit Virginia's Track 2 application for the Federal Railroad Administration's High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program. This application requests \$1.8 billion for the construction of 19 separate projects along the I-95 Southeast High Rail Corridor, many of which can begin construction in the spring of 2010. By 2017, these projects will allow trains to operate at speeds up to 90 MPH and establishes the capacity for 110 MPH as the entire Southeast High Speed Rail program is completed.

The 19 projects will include building 112 track miles of new third and fourth tracks and four major bridges, installing 97 new crossovers, and re-alignment of 82 track miles of curves. Almost 12,200 direct jobs will be created during construction.

The improvement in on-time performance will reach the 90 percent benchmark and decrease by 45 minutes the trip from downtown Richmond to Washington, D.C., bringing travel time down to less than 2 hours. These public benefits create economic growth opportunities throughout the corridor by allowing businesses and their employees to truly have a transportation alternative in the heavily congested Washington, D.C. region.

Over the next 30 years, the Track 2 projects will:

- Provide \$2.9 billion in public benefits
- Reduce auto trips by 13 million
- Save 2.9 million tons of CO₂ emissions
- Save 467 million gallons of fuel
- Reduce congestion costs by \$100 million and accident costs by \$49 million

This Track 2 application, like the Track 1 application submitted on August 24th, represents the culmination of a multi-year effort to have a well-defined, prioritized intercity passenger rail program for Virginia. This submission is supported by our Congressional delegation, the local and regional governments in the corridor, the business community, CSX, Amtrak, Virginia Railway Express, and our intercity rail plans are a noted priority for the Northeast Corridor.

The \$8 billion federal investment in intercity high speed rail in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides Virginia with the opportunity to accelerate our Southeast High Speed Rail intercity program in the I-95 Corridor. Our Track 2 application will fulfill the national rail vision by linking the Northeast Corridor to the south and will demonstrate how the ARRA creates both short- and long-term outcomes that benefit our citizens.

I look forward to your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kaine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy M. Kaine